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MEXICO

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DEFENSE SECRETARY DENIES DRUG SMUGGLING

FL231849 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1749 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- After reiterating he has nothing to do with drug smuggling activities, National Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui has stated his task has been to look after the development of this great country. He added: I have always been straightforward. My loyalty to the institutions, the president of the republic, and the great country of Mexico is beyond any doubt.

Asked about plans to sue the U.S. publication that suggested he was allegedly linked to drug smuggling activities, Arevalo Gardoqui said the general attorney's office already sent U.S. newspapers a press release on the matter.

He reasserted that the armed forces are intensively working in the entire country in the struggle against narcotics and that the Army alone has 25,000 men assigned to the search and disposal of drugs. He added that 389 casual ties have resulted from these activities from 1966 to present.

The national defense secretary was interviewed after President Miguel De la Madrid began his 2-day official visit to the UN Headquarters where he will participate in its 41st General Assembly. [passage omitted]

SEPULVEDA MEETS WITH JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

FL230225 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2312 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Excerpt] United Nations, NY 22 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor today met with his Japanese counterpart, Tadashi Kuranari, to finalize the details on Mexican President Miguel De la Madrid's upcoming visit.

A Mexican foreign secretariat spokesman said the Sepulveda-Kuranari interview completed the presidential agenda as well as the economic trade agreements that will be announced during De la Madrid's visit to Tokyo. [passage omitted]

DELEGATES DISCUSS LOANS WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

PA231550 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] In Tokyo, negotiations between the Mexican delegations headed by Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli and Japanese Government authorities continue.

The Export and Import Bank of Japan has agreed in principle to loan Mexico \$1 billion during the next 2 years. Japanese commercial banks will provide 10 percent of the new loans, which amount to a total of \$6 billion.